

Memorials

November 14-15, 2020 Convention

Since Convention November 8-9, 2019

<i>NAME</i>	<i>PARISH</i>	<i>PARISH LOCATION</i>
The Rev. Harold Avery	Retired	
The Rev. Vernon Powell Bliss	Retired	
The Rev. Dcn. John Derbyshire	Retired	
The Rev. Margaret Gay	Retired	
The Rev. Charles Henderson	Retired	
The Rev. Harry Little	Retired	
Judy Simmers	Christ Church	Willard
James Montgomery	St. Paul's	Chittenango
Abraham Way	Grace Church	Utica
Martha Cook	Grace Church	Utica
Donna Cramer	Grace Church	Utica
Chip Hadity	Grace Church	Utica
Richard Dorr	St. John's	Black River
Maryanne Margrave	Grace and Holy Spirit	Cortland
Glenn Spiegel	Grace and Holy Spirit	Cortland
Gwynne Crossley	Grace and Holy Spirit	Cortland
Shelley Ingraham	Grace and Holy Spirit	Cortland
Colleen Dye	Grace and Holy Spirit	Cortland
Pam Fitzpatrick	Emmanuel	Elmira
Mary Jerram	Emmanuel	Elmira
Jean Henry	Grace Church	Copenhagen
Joan Axtell	St. Andrew's	New Berlin
Al Chapin	St. Andrew's	New Berlin
Dick Gestwick	St. Andrew's	New Berlin
Joanne Kelsey	St. Matthew's	Moravia
Jack Miller	St. Matthew's	Moravia
Donald Meinig	Church of the Saviour	Syracuse
Katy Grace	St. Thomas'	Slaterville Springs
Barbara Johnson	Trinity Memorial	Binghamton

O God, whose mercies cannot be numbered: Accept our prayers on behalf of your servants, and grant them an entrance into the land of light and joy, in the fellowship of your saints; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

(BCP pg. 493)

Updated 11-7-2020

The Rev. Harold Dennison Avery

1928 – 2020

The Rev. Harold “Hal” Dennison Avery died peacefully at Iroquois Nursing Home on September 18, 2020 at the age of 92. Son of Harold Terry Avery and Anne Pirong Avery, he was born on May 2, 1928. He was predeceased by his parents; his sister, Dr. Patricia Labach; and the mother of his children, Gertrude Gardner Hughes.

Having graduated from Nottingham High School, Syracuse University, and Episcopal Divinity School in Cambridge, Massachusetts in 1952, Hal was ordained to the priesthood in 1953. Hal served in the Diocese of Rochester, primarily at St. John’s, Canandaigua and in the Diocese of Central New York. Hal was the Rector of Trinity Episcopal Church, Syracuse and then served within the Syracuse Urban Cluster. He served on various committees within the Diocese – from aging to youth. However, his passion was community involvement. He was never able to just attend a committee meeting he always seemed to have a leadership responsibility.

Hal was a “planner” and thrived on working to create new programs. He was on the dream team for the present InterFaith Works, Samaritan Center, Time of Jubilee, Lincoln Elms while serving on the Care & Share Fund, Metropolitan Commission of Aging, Maria Regina College, Coalition for Health and Welfare for Onondaga County, United Way of CNY, Home Aids of CNY, Visiting Nurses of CNY, Priority One of Greater Syracuse, Chairman of Community Issues, and more. He loved serving as the chairman of the Legislative Committee of the NYS Council for Home Care services. He so enjoyed attending InterFaith Works Thursday Morning Roundtable.

Hal planned his summer vacations in the winter months with the same diligence that he took on committee work. He felt he did not need to travel too far because everything he needed was in the Adirondacks. Each summer had to end with his camping trip to Fish Creek in the Adirondacks.

After serving in active ministry for 44 years – he was bored with retirement after one year – Hal continued serving churches as Sunday supply until he was 88 years old. He served All Saints’ Episcopal Church in Fulton for at least ten of those years. He had a “silly goal” of going wherever God called him to preach and wanting to be at every church in the Diocese – some wouldn’t let him go: Grace, Baldwinsville; St. Luke’s, Camillus; St. John’s, Marcellus; St. Albans’, Syracuse; Calvary, Syracuse; St. Mark the Evangelist, Syracuse; Grace, Syracuse; St. Paul’s, Chittenango; Emmanuel, East Syracuse; Trinity, Watertown; Christ Church, Binghamton; All Saints’, Johnson City; St John’s, Black River; Grace, Carthage... and the list goes on.

He was married to Jeanne Garrison Ives Avery for 35 years. He had four children, Stephen (Melanie) Avery, Catherine (David) Hallett, Peter Avery and Lucinda Avery; stepchildren, Kathy (Douglas) Chapman, Cyndi Ives and David Crouse and Rodney (Amy) Ives. Hal was always amazed that he had eleven grandsons and two granddaughters, Andrew, Matthew, George, Dennis, Richard, Christopher, Thomas, Kevin, Jacob, Forrest, Tucker, Margaret and Elizabeth and many spouses. But then the great grandchildren reversed, and he has four boys with nine girls, Landon, Ivan, Myles and Connor with Aurora, Ariel, Beatrice, Victoria, Adeline,

Emma, Ellie, Imogen and Emerson. He is also survived by his brother, Robert (Jean) Avery; and nephews and a niece.

The Requiem Mass was held at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Syracuse on October 7th. Fr. Avery was laid to rest at Greenlawn Cemetery in Warners.

Grant your faithful servant Harold D. Avery eternal rest and peace, O Lord, and light perpetual be upon him forever. Amen.

The Rev. Vernon Powell Bliss **1934 - 2020**

Vernon Powell "Woody" Bliss, formerly Vernon Powell Woodward, age 85, beloved husband of Sarah Bliss, died January 21, 2020, at their home in Montague, Massachusetts. Woody was the devoted father of Stewart Woodward of Waltham, Massachusetts, and Hobson Woodward of Rowley, Massachusetts, and cherished brother of Ada (Woodward) Warner of Newtown Square, Pennsylvania.

Woody was born in Wyoming, Ohio, a suburb of Cincinnati, on May 24, 1934, the son of Vernon and Hilma (Hohrath) Woodward. Memories of childhood centered on woodworking projects with his father, most notably the construction of a rideable model of a U.S. Navy Hellcat aircraft that ran on a zipline in the backyard. Summers were spent with extended family at his grandparents' cottage in Forest Beach, Michigan.

As a student at Wyoming High School, class of 1952, Woody gained a deep interest in science through participation in annual Ohio Science Day fairs. An advertisement in Scientific American led to summer internships in 1952 and 1953 at Jackson Laboratory, a center for cancer research in Bar Harbor, Maine. Woody enrolled in Cornell University in the fall of 1952, majoring in chemical engineering and finding community as a member of Triangle fraternity. A change of heart led to a new academic focus, and Woody transferred to Kenyon College, graduating in the class of 1957 with a degree in Philosophy.

Woody married fellow Jackson Laboratory student Mary Skinner in 1956, residing in Manhattan where he completed a divinity degree at General Theological Seminary and was ordained an Episcopal priest in 1960. The family, now including sons Stewart and Hobson, moved to Cincinnati where Woody ministered to congregants of the Church of the Advent. In September 1961 Woody joined a multiracial group of priests on a "prayer pilgrimage" to the South and was arrested in Jackson, Mississippi, when the group attempted to dine at a segregated lunch counter. The freedom ride was a prelude to a decade of civil rights and anti-Vietnam War activism, including attendance at Martin Luther King Jr.'s "I Have a Dream" speech.

In 1961 Woody became vicar of St. George's Church in the upstate New York town of Chadwicks on the outskirts of Utica. The family hosted Kenyan student James Okwiry, initiating a lifelong friendship with the Okwiry family. In 1965 Woody turned from the ministry to education, teaching at Utica College of Syracuse University and later moving with his family to nearby New Hartford.

Woody moved to Massachusetts in 1970, attaining a Ph.D. in educational administration from the Union Graduate School in New York and settling in Cambridge where he resided for a quarter century. In 1980 he married Judith Moll, working first as an education specialist and then finding his calling as an organizational development consultant to small nonprofits focused on the arts and environmental protection. Woody relished his life in Cambridge, especially as a volunteer in the city's recycling program and as a member of the statewide Earth Spirit community.

At the turn of the century Woody moved to western Massachusetts to join his beloved Sarah. Sarah and Woody married in 2005 in Tyringham, taking the last name Bliss to honor shared colonial ancestor Margaret (Hulins) Bliss. They settled in Montague, where Woody's passions included collaborating with Sarah in her art and filmmaking, authentic movement/contemplative dance, storytelling, building community of all kinds, contributing to the creation of food justice through service at the Center for Self-Reliance in Greenfield, board service at the Temenos Retreat Center, nurturing board and organizational development at the Performance Project and the Amherst Writers & Artists Workshop, researching family history and attending Red Sox games with son Hobson, doing woodworking projects with son Stewart, and going on outings with granddaughters Sadie and Sage. He was a voracious reader, a lover of the natural world, and a spiritual seeker.

In addition to his wife Sarah and his sister, sons, granddaughters, and former wives, Woody leaves his mother-in-law Judith Grant of Raleigh, North Carolina; daughters-in-law Elizabeth Woodward (Hobson) and Dianne O'Donoghue (Stewart); brother-in-law Frank Warner (Ada); brother-in-law Robert Grant (Emily Grant) and sister-in-law Kate Stryker (E.J. Lindsay), of Raleigh; nephews and niece Ashton Rooney, Carolyn Rooney, Devin Rooney, Ben Grant, Wyatt Grant, Bruce Warner (Linda Fagan), and Cliff Warner (Debra Warner); grandnieces Ashley and Gillian Warner and grandnephews Matthew and Justin Warner.

A celebration of Woody's life was held on February 1st at the Episcopal Church of Saints James and Andrew, which Woody returned to in the last year of his life.

Grant your faithful servant Vernon Powell Bliss eternal rest and peace, O Lord, and light perpetual be upon him forever. Amen.

The Rev. Deacon John Derbyshire

1927 - 2020

The Rev. Dcn. John Derbyshire, formerly of Lockport, Greene, Skaneateles, Orchard Park, and Detroit MI, passed away peacefully on February 2, 2020 in Syracuse. Born in New York City on November 3, 1927, John saw World War II service in the Merchant Marine and U.S. Army, as well as post war service in the US Army Air Corps. He attended Wayne State University, where he met the love of his life, Cynthia; they were married in 1952 and were together until her passing in 1998.

John worked in radio and public relations, his career culminating in 16 years working with the Public Affairs Office of the Army Corps of Engineers Buffalo District. He retired from there in 1998. He was active in the Episcopal Church, in which he was ordained a Deacon in 1989. He volunteered with the National Ski Patrol, the Skaneateles Ambulance Volunteer Emergency Service (S.A.V.E.S.), and the Skaneateles and Greene Fire Departments. He served as Episcopal chaplain to the Buffalo Police and Fire Departments, as well as Buffalo and Syracuse area hospitals.

In addition to his wife, John was predeceased by his older siblings Katherine (Kay) Fenton, and Traverse Derbyshire. He is survived by his six children: Martha Derbyshire (Wayne Kaufman) of Santa Barbara, CA, Madeline Derbyshire of Syracuse, Traverse R Derbyshire II of Syracuse, Catherine Detweiler (Steve) of Louisville, KY, Andrew Derbyshire (Katherine) of Kenmore, WA, and Margaret Derbyshire (Michael Hoover) of Syracuse, as well as six grandchildren: Stephen Derbyshire (Allison), Eric Detweiler (Megan Moss), Emily Deteiler, Harrison Derbyshire, Shannon Rudy, and Ian Rudy, and four great grandchildren.

John's funeral was held at The Church of the Most Holy Rosary, Syracuse, on February 8th.

Grant your faithful servant John Derbyshire eternal rest and peace, O Lord, and light perpetual be upon him forever. Amen.

The Margaret Gay 1940 - 2020

The Reverend Amy Gay (born Margaret Ann Worcester) of Rexford, NY died on June 20 after a brief illness. She was 79.

Amy was born on December 1, 1940 in New York City and graduated from Fox Lane in Mt. Kisco, NY. She attended Cornell and the University of Pennsylvania, joining the Peace Corps as an English teacher in Thailand after her graduate studies. She married A. Edward Gay III (Ted) in 1968.

She started her professional career as one of the first women programmers at Mohawk Data Sciences in Herkimer, NY. While her children were home, she dedicated herself to home life and volunteer activities at the church and school. In 2006 at the age of 66, she became an ordained priest in the Episcopal Church and served Trinity Episcopal Church in Camden, NY for 6 years. Amy and Ted lived in Camden for 48 years before moving to Rexford, NY in 2019.

Amy is survived by her husband of 52 years, Ted; her three children and their spouses Amy Rebecca Gay and Ben Clark of Maynard, MA, Edward and Lauren Gay of Clifton Park, NY, and Frank and Lisa Wolf of Brooklyn, NY. She has six grandchildren.

Grant your faithful servant Amy Gay eternal rest and peace, O Lord, and light perpetual be upon her forever. Amen.

The Rev. Harry R. Little

1927 – 2019

The Rev. Harry R. Little, 92, of Carthage, passed away on December 4, 2019, under the care of his daughter Kathy and Hospice of Jefferson County.

Born in Greenpoint, Brooklyn, NY on September 7, 1927, the son of Harry and Arabella Warren Little, he married Ruth Conroy, also of Brooklyn, in 1951. Mrs. Little died in 1975. Father Little graduated from Long Island City High School and was employed by the Royal Globe Insurance Co. for 17 years. At that time, he graduated from the George Mercer Jr. School of Theology at the Diocese of Long Island in June of 1962 and was ordained a priest of the Episcopal Church in December of 1962. He was the Priest-in-Charge and Curate of several churches on Long Island until 1980, when he became Rector of Grace Episcopal Church in Carthage and Grace Episcopal Church in Copenhagen, until his retirement on January 1, 1990.

Fr. Little also served as a member of the Carthage Volunteer Fire Department, the NYS Fire Chaplains Association, NNY and Jefferson County Fire Associations, the NYS Fire Police Association and the Clergy Association of Central New York.

He is survived by his daughters, Kathy Kaufman of Carthage and Diane Kenny of Austin, Texas; and his sons and their spouses, John and Linda Little of East Northport NY, and Mark and Candy Little of Saint James NY; along with 11 grandchildren and 12 great grandchildren; several nieces and nephews; and his sister Florence Stuart of Annapolis, Maryland. His sisters Dorothy LaFazia and Ruth Garry predeceased him.

A Funeral Mass was held at Grace Episcopal Church, Copenhagen on December 10th. Fr. Little was buried with his wife at Mt. Olivet Cemetery, in Maspeth, Queens, NY.

Grant your faithful servant Harry Little eternal rest and peace, O Lord, and light perpetual be upon him forever. Amen.

The Rev. Joan Adams Shelton

1932 - 2018

The Reverend Joan Adams Shelton, 86, of Washington, DC, died at home on November 15th surrounded by family.

The daughter of the late John C. Adams and Alice Murray Adams, and the sister of the late Murray C. Adams, Joan was born September 12th, 1932, in Ithaca, NY. She graduated from Vassar College with a bachelor's degree in Art History (Phi Beta Kappa, Summa Cum Laude) in 1954.

After college she worked at the Guggenheim Museum in New York City, where she met Murray N. Shelton, Jr., and they were married on November 22nd, 1957.

They first resided in Washington, DC, where she worked at the Corcoran Gallery. They settled

in Bethlehem, PA, raising their family and many pets.

Ever intellectually curious, she was always reading and educating herself about her many interests-geology, jazz, history, and many other topics. She inspired in her children the same curiosity, and the desire "look it up." She also inspired her children with the idea that most things are possible with determination, application, and perseverance-as she demonstrated to them with her then-pioneering career choice.

With the support of her husband, she began to actively pursue her life-long calling to the Episcopal Church. In March, 1977, she became one of the first women ordained as an Episcopal priest.

She received her Master's of Divinity degree (Summa Cum Laude Award in Theology) from Moravian Theological Seminary in 1979, and a master's degree in Elementary Education from Lehigh University in 1979.

Joan served many churches in the Northeast, including in Rhode Island, Syracuse, southeastern Pennsylvania, southern Maryland, and in the DC area. She also became a member of the Franciscan Third Order, where she found a community of spiritual and intellectual fellowship and made enduring friendships.

After her husband died in 1986, and with her children launching lives of their own, in 1995 she traveled to Haiti. There she was able to pursue a life-long dream: missionary work teaching at the Episcopal Seminary in Haiti. She loved Haiti and its people, making lasting friendships among her students, who still refer to her as their "Mother." It gave her great joy to continue to be a part of their lives and support them as they began to lead parishes of their own.

After she "retired," Joan moved to Washington, DC to be near her grandchildren, but with no desire to ever "retire." She joined St. Stephen and the Incarnation and there found another loving community that embraced her as she embraced them. Joan continued to serve the church there until her final illness prevented it.

She also enjoyed life, in particular her adored cats, French food, and staying current by reading the New York Times every day. As recently as 2017, she was able to fulfill a life-long desire that combined many of her greatest joys, travelling to see the Ghent Altar Piece with her daughter Alison and granddaughter Sophia.

She is survived by her two daughters, Alison and Eleanor Shelton, and her two grandchildren, Sophia and Kenneth Hill.

A Memorial Service was held Saturday, December 1, 2018 at St. Stephen and the Incarnation Episcopal Church, Washington, DC.

Grant your faithful servant Joan Shelton eternal rest and peace, O Lord, and light perpetual be upon him forever. Amen.